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ON PAGE_ 6-19

Boyce's espionage delayed SALT, compromised U.S., Moynihan says

United Press International

NEW YORK — Convicted spy Christopher Boyce may have delayed the approval of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty by selling the Soviets top-secret documents detailing the U.S. satellite surveillance system, Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D., N.Y.) has told CBS.

Moynihan told CBS "60 Minutes" that Boyce "compromised" the U.S. satellite system and made the satellites "useless" because "the Soviets could block them."

"And the fear that that would happen, had happened, permeated the Senate and, as much as any one thing, was responsible for the failure of the SALT treaty," the senator said.

CBS reported that Boyce had worked his way up to a top-secret position in the code room at a TRW Inc. plant, which had the government contract for producing the satellites.

CBS also interviewed Boyce on the "60 Minutes" program and reported that Boyce said there was virtually no security at TRW, located in Redondo Beach, Calif.

"Like, the codes are supposed to be destroyed every day but we used to just throw them in the corner. And, there was a large blender to put the codes in and we'd blend them down to mush. Well, they never used that to destroy the codes with. We would, we made daiquiris in it," Boyce told CBS.

Boyce started selling top-secret documents to the Soviet Union with the aid of his old friend Andrew D. Lee, who used the Soviet money to finance his illegal drug business, CBS said.

The men were the subject of the book, The Falcon and The Snowman. Boyce was convicted of espionage in 1977, escaped from a federal prison in January 1980, and was captured in

July 1980.

Boyce told CBS that he would smuggle documents in and out of the top-secret TRW facility by using document satchels. His boss would send him out to buy liquor, Boyce said, and he would smuggle documents out in the satchels, which the guards never inspected because they thought they contained only liquor approved by Boyce's boss.

"So, it was very simple to, to take the rolls of documents and put them in a satchel and take them out the same way that I would go and buy liquor for my superiors."

The problem was in returning the documents, Boyce said.

"One time I bought a potted plant, a pot and a plant, and I rolled documents up in plastic and stuck them in the pot and put dirt over that and stuck the plant in the top and then walked in and told... the guards to go out to my car and bring the potted plant into the offices," Boyce told "60 Minutes."

Movnihan said he did not see how the U.S. government could "ever again give a security-sensitive contract to TRW."